

# When in Rome, Go to Jesuit Travel Bureau

By MOLLIE McGEE  
(NC News Service)

Rome — All roads leading to Rome bring visitors, and a good quota of these call on the Jesuits. With 35,000 members of the order scattered across the world, each with his own relatives, friends and students and with planes flying in flocks, the influx into Jesuit headquarters might become an inundation. To ward off this eventuality, the generalate has established the Jesuit Guest Bureau.

The idea came from Fordham's former president, Father Vincent O'Keefe, S.J., assistant to the general and American friends. Presidents of Jesuit colleges became interested. Organization was placed in the experienced hands of Father Thomas Sullivan, S.J., of San Francisco University, well-known to alumni and founder of

the Jesuit International Magazine. Running the office is in charge of Miss Elena Bartoli, who welcomes and advises in five languages.

Day-to-day routine involves such matters as tickets for papal audiences and ceremonies (— about 5,000 of these have been signed for and delivered since the bureau started 18 months ago.

In that time, nearly 2,000 visitors, all with Jesuit credentials, have been taken in charge for accommodation, itineraries and all the various other cares a stranger in Rome requires. Nearly 900 wanted to visit museums (tickets) and the Vatican gardens (permissions). About 600 went down to the excavations under St. Peter's near his tomb (permissions and guides).

Entry to the Jesuit Guest Bureau is at the far end of the

General House, on the narrow street of Borgo Santo Spirito, leading to St. Peter's. Inside of the lobby to the left, a door swinging open to the touch in office hours leads into a small, neat office. A large map of the world covers one wall. Miss Bartoli's desk is in front of the other. Furniture is modern; a comfortable settee and several armchairs. Take a seat and watch:

An elderly priest comes through the door from the generalate, a slip of paper in his hand. "I'm afraid there will be 30 not 13," he says after a slight hesitation, "and they're coming on Monday." Miss Bartoli nods, smiles, takes the note and answers a flashing phone signal. "His valise has not arrived at his hotel," she tells the caller. "He was on flight No. ... (looking down at a book) Thank You!"

Two young girls arrive through the street entrance, and come to the desk. "Can you call for your tickets on Wednesday morning early?" she asks them.

As they go out they pass a tall man in sports clothes coming in. He lays an envelope in front of Miss Bartoli. "There will be 60," he says. "Mass will be at ten o'clock." They smile at each other and he leaves. "He is going to be ordained on Sunday," Miss Bartoli explains, "and he is saying his first Mass in the chapel on Monday. Afterwards there will be a reception in our lounge."

The Loyola Lounge — a spacious, high-ceilinged room with modern furniture — is along the hall from the guest bureau and has a separate entrance into the small, front lobby. It holds about 100 and is arranged so that smaller numbers don't feel lost.

Jesuit alumni often arrive in Rome in groups and gather in the lounge to meet the general. Recently there were 35 former Georgetown University men and their wives, and before that a number of Spaniards.

Sometimes there are parties. "Not often," Miss Bartoli says. "We don't want to have a name for partying!" But an elegant reception was held for a Jesuit who received the red biretta, Jean Cardinal Danielou — of France.

One of the most interesting gatherings was at the request of an American brain surgeon, and lecturer at a Jesuit university. Returning from Russia, where he had been researching transplants of human organs, he wrote to a Jesuit friend in Rome saying he would like to "have the opportunity to meet and discuss with members of the theological community who are particularly interested in

problems of medical ethics." Father O'Keefe was consulted and invitations went out to moral theologians, noted medical men and superiors general of medical orders. It was a memorable meeting, with 14 experts present and was recorded on TV.

Not all who call at the guest bureau are travelers. One elderly gentleman wanted help to find a spiritual adviser and the mother of an Italian Jesuit came frantic with worry, because she had not heard from her son for three months. The Jesuit who headed the missions was called in to explain to her that her son had gone to a remote area up the Amazon River. They went over the map together and she realized that letters might take some time. She left calmed down, aware that she had friends. That is probably the fundamental aim of the Jesuit Guest Bureau.



## Farewell To A Jazzman

With George "Pops" Foster's bass propped against an empty chair, a priest says a requiem Mass for the Dixieland jazz great in San Francisco's Sacred Heart Roman Catholic church. Mr. Foster died at 77. Some 300 of his friends and fellow musicians attended the service and a Dixieland band played some of his favorite tunes. (Religious News Service)

## U.S. Must Leave Viet, Quaker Says

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A Quaker official said here that the "deadweight" of U.S. military and political presence in South Vietnam must be ended before the Vietnamese people can work out a solution to their problems.

Edward F. Snyder, chief executive of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, made the assessment after returning from two years in Southeast Asia as a Quaker international affairs representative.

Although Snyder's comments were written before President Nixon's Nov. 3 address to the nation on the Vietnam War, the Quaker leader disagreed with many points made by the Chief Executive.

For example, Snyder said, in relation to a policy of withdrawing American troops, that the regime of President Thieu is not considered in South Vietnam as being capable of mustering support sufficient to conduct the war.

He said the U.S. is currently "committed to one small right-wing segment of Vietnamese opinion." The Saigon government represents only "the army, the Catholic minority and anti-Communists," according to Snyder. "It is a coalition of the extreme right."

He also argued that the Nixon Administration program of "Vietnamization" of the conflict perpetuates an unattainable "victory" policy.

Snyder urged greater U.S. attention to the possibility of asylum for Vietnamese who might not want — or find it safe — to remain in South Vietnam should the U.S. withdraw. Many people, he said, have maintained contacts both with Saigon and the National Liberation Front (NLF) and are prepared to live with a coalition government.

"There are many diverse groups who would remain active in South Vietnamese political life," he said, "and this very diversity plus the prevailing mood of war weariness gives strength to the hope that reprisals would be limited and the peoples' energies would be concentrated on reconstruction."

President Nixon said in his Nov. 3 address that U.S. withdrawal would result in a massacre of thousands of Vietnamese, especially Catholic refugees from the North.

### CARDINAL IMPROVING

Rome — (RNS) — Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, is making "very good progress" after his prostate gland operation, Vatican Radio reported. If all goes well, the report said, the cardinal will leave the clinic in 10 days and recuperate at a resort near Rome. The cardinal is expected to return to Poland about the second week of December. He was in Rome to attend the international Synod of Bishops.

## Albania Attacks Religious Beliefs

Tirana, Albania — (RNS) — Albanian Communist party "activists" have inaugurated a new campaign against "old customs and religious prejudices" throughout the country.

Local committees are being established in an effort, the report said, "to eliminate completely all religious beliefs among the citizens."

Albania has an almost equal proportion of Moslems, Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox.

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## Treat POWs Humanely, Methodists Give Chaplains Urge Hanoi \$100,000 to Combat Racism

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel, a "civilian" religious agency maintained by 35 member Protestant denominations, has forwarded to the prime minister of North Vietnam a resolution urging that country to treat war prisoners humanely.

- The resolution asked for:
1. The publication of a list of the names of prisoners being held.
  2. The prompt exchange or release of sick and wounded prisoners.
  3. The grant of free exchange of mail between the prisoners and their families.
  4. The permission for visits to prison camps by the Red Cross or other international authority.
  5. The humane treatment of prisoners in view of reported practices of torture and solitary confinement.

The commission, established in 1917 at the suggestion of the then Secretary of War Newton Baker, is a permanent conference on the coordination of standards and support for the Protestant chaplaincy and religious programs for armed forces personnel and veterans.

Theme of the assembly will be "The Synods — Vital Elements in the Church" and sessions are scheduled Nov. 7-9.

Geneva — (RNS) — The headquarters of the World Council of Churches (WCC) announced here that it had received the first major contribution in its \$500,000 program to combat racism.

Under a five-year program, approved by the WCC Central Committee last August, a special fund is to be raised and distributed among organizations of "oppressed racial groups" or among those "supporting victims of racial injustice." The WCC has pledged \$200,000 from its own reserves for this fund. The United Methodist Church, with more than 11 million members, is the second largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

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